

Mediargo, a New Tertiary Genus in the Family Cymatiidae

BY

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(Plate 4)

INTRODUCTION

IN THE COURSE OF RESEARCH ON Recent and fossil species of the cymatiid genera *Argobuccinum*, *Fusitriton*, and *Priene*, the writer observed (TERRY, 1968) a number of Pliocene specimens that possess characters of all three genera but could not be assigned to any one. Juveniles resemble Recent species of *Gyrineum* LINK, 1807, and late juveniles are easily confused with those of *Fusitriton oregonensis* (REDFIELD, 1848). Young adults are similar to Recent species of *Argobuccinum* HERRMANNSEN, 1846, while gerontic forms such as the holotype of *Gyrineum lewisii* CARSON, 1926 and the mature specimen figured herein are distinct from all other cymatiids. Specimens of different growth stages have been compared, and 2 species can be recognized: *Mediargo mediocris* (DALL, 1909) of middle or late Miocene to Pliocene age, and *M. mathewsonii* (GABB, 1866), which ranges from the middle Oligocene to middle Miocene. Only the former, the type species, will be considered here.

Mediargo TERRY, gen. nov.

Type Species: *Gyrineum mediocre* DALL, 1909

Specimens referred to *Mediargo* by the writer have

been classified most commonly in *Ranella*, *Bursa* and *Gyrineum*. Although characters, such as lateral varices and anterior pillar folds, are common to all four, the new genus is distinguished by a combination of these and other morphologic features that place it closer to *Argobuccinum* and *Fusitriton*.

Diagnostic generic characters that are seen in all but the largest gerontic specimens include the following: two nearly continuous lateral varices on each volution, high spire, rounded whorls having tabulate shoulders, moderate to long anterior canal, anal notch oriented at an angle to the axis of coiling (as in *Fusitriton*), in contrast to the apically directed notch in *Argobuccinum*), transverse pillar folds over most of the columella, and a denticulate or plicate outer lip. Axial and spiral costae may be marked or obsolete and are commonly present on juvenile whorls but conspicuously lacking in the later stages. *Mediargo* differs from *Argobuccinum* in its tabular whorls and anal notch, from *Fusitriton* in its lateral varices and plicate aperture, and from *Gyrineum* in its outline, tabulate shoulders, ovate aperture, marked anal notch, and large size.

The name *Mediargo* is feminine in gender. It combines the root of *Gyrineum mediocre*, here designated as the type species, and the prefix of *Argobuccinum*, the genus to which it is morphologically most similar.

Explanation of Plate 4

Figure 1: *Mediargo mediocris* (DALL, 1909). Holotype U.S.N. M. No. 153900, Coos Bay, Oregon. Pliocene. Holotype of *Gyrineum mediocre* DALL, 1909. 4.4 cm high.

Figure 2: *Mediargo mediocris* (DALL), LACMIP No. 2155-96, Palos Verdes Hills, California. "Pleistocene." [reworked Pliocene.] 4.2 cm high.

Figure 3: *Mediargo mediocris* (DALL), Univ. Oregon F 2638, Bandon, Oregon. Mio-Pliocene. 4.2 cm high. Compare variation in sculpture between specimens in Figures 2 and 3.

Figure 4: *Mediargo mediocris* (DALL), CAS No. 11689, from a well in San Diego, California. Pliocene. 4.5 cm high.

Figure 5: *Mediargo mediocris* (DALL), Paratype, USNM No. 645876, Coos Bay, Oregon. Miocene or Pliocene. (Former number was 153900.) 6 cm high.

Figure 6: *Mediargo mediocris* (DALL), LSJU No. 138, Santa Maria District, California. Pliocene. [Paratype of *Gyrineum lewisii* CARSON, 1926.] 6.2 cm high.

Figure 7: *Mediargo mediocris* (DALL), UGMP No. 10105, Coos County, Oregon. Pliocene. Note plicate aperture. 4.6 cm high.

Figures 8, 9: *Mediargo mediocris* (DALL), LSJU No. 31625, Kettleman Hills, Fresno County, California. Pliocene. Mature specimen. 11.3 cm high.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

